



Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 46th ARRL affiliated year

Volume 2, No. 9

May 1994



Board of Directors

Officers

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------|
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| Vice President | VACANT | VACANT |
| Treasurer | N1AEH | Greg Stoddard |
| Secretary | N1DUY | Jim Sebolt |

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| | |
|--------|----------------|
| N1FOW | Mike Griffin |
| NR1L | Kevin Hilinski |
| K1MVR | Dave Olson |
| VACANT | VACANT |

Expiring 1995

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| N1KBY | Jeff Hugabone |
| N1GVV | Adam Olson |
| WA1OHR | Everett Paluska |
| VACANT | VACANT |

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on Friday night May 6, 1994 and will feature a meeting about 3D Television. This meeting will feature John Merritt from Interactive Technologies out of Williamsburg, MA. He will demonstrate simple and effective new hardware for using 3D TV for controlling remote-control vehicles. Thanks to a new type of 3D projection system, the audience will be able to see a large stereoscopic video and appreciate the benefits gained from 3D displays for remote control operations. See more information about this meeting on page 3 of this issue. Due to the technical nature of the meeting, there will be no Tech Corner this month. This month the doors will open at 7:15 P.M. and the meeting will start approximately at 7:45 P.M. We hope to see you there!

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday May 12, 1994 and will take place at Kevin Hilinski's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Kevin, NR1L for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend our board meetings.

Coming in June: June will feature the annual banquet and election of officers. The election will take place immediately after the banquet. You do not have to attend the banquet in order to take place in the election. Speaking of the election, we desperately need people to run. Please consider it, it can be a lot of fun! If you have any interest at all, please drop the nomination form in this issue at the next meeting, or mail it to the club's P.O. Box.



May Meeting: Topic on 3D Display Benefits for remote vehicles

Happy Memorial Day!

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President's Message

by Barry Mason N1IJK

Hello. I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather. I'm trying to, while I try to finish some winter projects, including a wire X-beam for 20 meters, and re-tuning my vertical. However, for those of you at the Flea Market, you know that all the bad weather is not gone yet. We actually had about 20 minutes of snow / rain showers!

While I'm on the Flea Market, I want to thank those on the Board who helped out, as well as some special thanks to Larry N1EPE, Diane N1JJO, Dan N1RAL, Charlie K1II, Paul, Shep and John (sorry, I don't remember the calls but THANKS!).

Also, thanks to Yorke Phillips K1BXE and his VE team for rounding out the Flea Market. (Thanks Bill, Charlie and NED).

Back to the present. This month's meeting is not one to miss. Catch the latest info on 3-D TV. Please note, that this meeting will be starting earlier than usual, 7:45 p.m. instead of the usual 8:00 p.m. Also, Tech Corner will not be held this month.

In this issue of Zero Beat you'll find nomination forms for Club office. Use them! It does take some time and effort to make our Club function. We will have a few vacancies on the board as Board terms expire, and we will need to fill them. The time is minimal and the effort is up to you, but is well worth it.

A Final note: Thanks to Dave Olson K1MVR and Adam Olson N1GVV for their work on the Flea Market. I can truly say without their help and input, The Flea Market would not have happened.

Until Friday,
73, Barry N1IJK

Ham Radio Saves Lives in Boating Accident

Two men rescued from a sinking boat in the Gulf of Mexico credit Amateur Radio for saving their lives.

On March 2, Larry Hooker, KB5ZNY, of Thaxton, Mississippi, and his sailing partner, Rhett White, were returning from Honduras on Hooker's 45-ft. sailing vessel *Off The Hook*, when they ran into an unexpected storm and high seas.

Hooker had been in contact with his friend Randall O'Brian, KD5ZH, of West Point, Mississippi, since hoisting anchor on February 6, on 80, 40, and 20 Meters. Hooker had visited his daughter, Tina Hooker, KB5YNN, a missionary with Global Outreach on the northeastern coast of Honduras, in a area accessible only by air or sea.

"Tina's US Novice license allowed her to operate from Honduras," Larry Hooker said. "i was taking her a rig, along with other supplies. Larry, who upgraded to General class about six months ago, was looking forward to regular skeds with his daughter by radio.

Larry's friend Randall O'Brian was his link back to the States. "Larry and I made two radio contacts a day," O'Brian said, "starting out on 75 Meters, then on 40 and 20 Meters as he got farther out." Hooker arrived at his destination on February 17, and after spending some time with his daughter, began the return trip on February 26.

All went well until March 1. "Larry reported being in bad weather," O'Brian said, "and he was using his radar to pick his way around the most severe thunderstorms. He had lowered his sails and was under power. The weather forecast had been wrong."

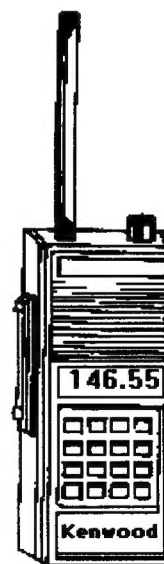
Things began to deteriorate on March 2, when Hooker reported to O'Brian that he was in gale force winds and high seas (20 to 25 ft.).

Continued on Page 5



"I wouldn't be alive today if it were not for the efforts of amateur radio operators. The Lord used Amateur Radio operators to save our lives."

Larry Hooker, KB5ZNY



Zero Beat is a monthly publication except in July and August by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and its author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of Jerry Griffin and his computer equipment. Thanks, EDITOR

May Meeting: Stereoscopic Video Displays

John Merritt of Interactive Technologies (Williamsburg, MA) will demonstrate simple and effective new hardware for using 3D TV (stereoscopic video) for controlling remote control vehicles. Thanks to a new type of 3D TV projection system, the audience will be able to see large screen stereoscopic video and appreciate the benefits gained from 3D displays for remote control operations. In addition, low cost (hobbyist price range) methods for obtaining 3D TV on a single video channel will be demonstrated.

This meeting will take the form of a practical workshop session, where attendees will have hands on experience with various stereoscopic hardware and 3D display principles. The meeting will include:

- * a simple demonstration of orthoscopic camera/display set up procedures
- * demonstration of improved perception of off-road terrain hazards with 3D displays
- * overview of various stereoscopic display methods, with hardware examples
- * often overlooked side benefits of stereoscopic displays
- * human factors issues in 3D display implementation

This meeting will provide a concrete understanding of the basic principles and pitfalls that should be considered in transitioning from 2D displays to 3D displays, for applications such as remote control vehicles and manipulators, medical imaging, etc.

John O. Merritt - Professional Biography

John Merritt has worked with "true 3D" stereoscopic display systems for over 20 years, first as a photographic interpretation officer in the Navy, and later as a researcher/consultant in the area of 3D video and binaural audio for telerobotic systems. He is recognized as a leading authority in the design and evaluation of 3D displays for telerobotic applications and remote control vehicle operation.

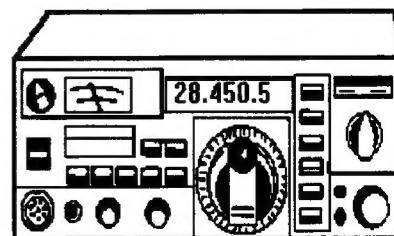
Following graduate studies at Harvard in experimental psychology (sensory and perceptual systems), he directed a variety of research projects related to vision and visual displays at Human Factors Research, Inc. (Santa Barbara, CA) and at Perceptronics, Inc. (Woodland Hills, CA).

Currently a Principal Consultant at Interactive Technologies (Williamsburg, MA), he is working on further enhancements to perceptual realism ("telepresence") in advanced telerobotic displays and controls. Other research interests include binaural auditory displays, display workstation ergonomics and visual fatigue, image interpretation systems, and user/computer interface design.

He is active in the AUVS (Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems), HFES (Human Factors & Ergonomics Society), SID (Society for Information Display), SPIE (Society of Photoptical Instrumentation Engineers), and has organized and chaired several recent conferences on 3D displays and applications.

Reminder!!

This is just a little reminder to let you know that the club call, W1NY is available for any members to use for any radio event such as contests and dxing. Just write a little note to the board of directors to ask permission.



HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 482
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE

I, _____
(Print your name here) (Callsign)

Hereby place my name in nomination for election to the office indicated below:
(Circle one candidate office below)

President

Vice- President

Treasurer

Secretary/Clerk

Director (2 year term)

I certify that I am now, and will maintain my status as, a current regular member, and if elected, will uphold the duties of the office and the standards of the HCRA.

(Sign Here) (Date)

Return this form when completed to the HCRA Secretary/Clerk.

June Election Info

Well, it is coming close to that time of year again, the HCRA's annual election. If you are interested in running for a position, we strongly recommend it this year! If there is any chance at all for you to do so, please so. Last year we had a very difficult time doing this. We need interested people, help out your club and see how it operates. The club will be unable to survive if we continue to have a difficult time finding people to make the club run. This would be a great opportunity for you to participate and help turn this club into one of the best around. This year we will have several positions open for candidates. President, Vice President, and board positions. (5 openings!) Don't be shy, if you are interested please contact Barry, N1IJK, or any other club officer. Fill out the application form in the space above, and bring it to the next meeting. Just give it to Jim Sebolt, N1DUY. Or mail it to the club P.O. Box. Try to have the form filled out by the May meeting. This year nominations will be taken from the floor. However, the person must be interested and present at the June annual meeting. There will be more information about this in the June Zero Beat. If you are not sure what is involved, you can always ask any of the club officers. Keep in mind that this year's election will be held at the Church. This will allow for more club participation. The board made this decision based on the surveys. The annual meeting will take place shortly after the banquet to allow people who wish not to attend the meal an opportunity to vote.

Ham-boater Credits Amateur Radio (Cont.)

"Larry was concerned about having enough fuel to make it back to Mobile, Alabama. We started making a contact every two hours the remainder of the day," O'Brian said.

At 4 PM Hooker reported taking on water, the seas still running 20 to 25 ft. O'Brian called the Coast Guard and advised them of Larry's situation, and the Coast Guard started an every-other-hour check on Larry - coming up on Hooker's and O'Brian's regular 75-meter frequency, 3862 kHz.

"At about 5 PM Larry reported the situation as very bad, with no improvement in sight," O'Brian said. "This was the last contact anyone had with him the rest of the night."

O'Brian and other amateurs listening tried all that night to contact *Off The Hook*, as did the Coast Guard. About 5 AM on March 3 the Coast Guard in New Orleans called O'Brian to say that their station in Corpus Christi, Texas, had picked up a call from Larry, but couldn't establish contact with him. They asked O'Brian to try.

"I had a dream that night," O'Brian said, "that I would be able to contact Larry again. And at about 5:30 AM I did. He was in an emergency situation, on the verge of sinking. I contacted the Coast Guard and they again came on 3862 kHz and were able to contact Larry."

The Coast Guard dispatched a jet aircraft from New Orleans to drop pumps to *Off The Hook*, which was about 250 miles southeast of Mobile. The two sailors, although by

now exhausted, tried to pump the water out of their boat.

A merchant vessel, the *Turn Arrow*, was only 16 miles away and quickly came to help in the rescue. "We amateurs had radio contact with the Coast Guard in New Orleans all day," O'Brian said, "and were able to get reports from Larry. I was notified by the Coast Guard that their cutter, the *Cushing*, was being dispatched from Mobile, and would reach Larry at 4:30 PM."

At 5:15 PM the Coast Guard reported that *Off the Hook* was under tow and that Hooker and White were bruised and exhausted but otherwise OK.

Off the Hook was towed all night, but sank about 10 AM on March 4. They were unable to keep the water pumped out.

During the operation Hooker's wife, Teresa, who is not a ham, listened to the communications. After the two men were picked up she told the *Tupelo Daily Journal* "Now that I know he's on his way home, I may get a little sleep tonight, but I'm going to leave the ham radio on."

"Larry and his wife came to visit on March 6," Randall O'Brian said. "Larry told me 'I wouldn't be alive today if it were not for the efforts of Amateur Radio operators.'"

"The Lord used Amateur Radio operators to save our lives," Hooker said.

Briefs From The ARRL....

FCC Extends Comment Period in 'Vanity' Call Sign Plan

The FCC has granted an ARRL request to extend the comment deadline in its "vanity" call sign proposal, in PR Docket 93-305.

The comment deadline was extended to April 21, 1994; the reply comment deadline was extended to May 23, 1994.

The Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making was released December 29, 1993, with an original comment deadline of March 7, 1994. The League said more time was needed for response because of the importance of the proposal to amateurs and therefore the need to ensure fairness in whatever system was adopted.

In granting the League's request the FCC said "it is desirable that the record be as complete as possible and that it reflect the views of the amateur community."

An ARRL *ad-hoc* committee on this proposal includes Directors Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF; Frank Butler, W4RH; Tom Comstock, N5TC; John Kanode, N4MM; and Brad Wyatt, K6WR. Members should address their comments to "Docket 93-305 Committee," and send them to ARRL HQ.

For more information on this proposal, see February 1994 QST on pages 9 and 84-86.

Amateur Radio Specialties

Indian Orchard, Mass.

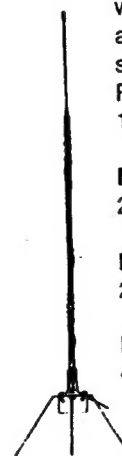
COLLINEAR MultiWave™ BASE.

Double 5/8 over 1/4 wave. All fiberglass and aluminum construction. Fits masts up to 1-1/2" diameter.

Model 9209
2 meter 10.5 assbly.

Model 9309
220 MHz 7.6 assbly.

Model 9409
440 MHz 5.6 assbly.



Stan Bates
(413) 543-5654
N1INB

Zero Beat - May 1994

May Meeting:

Stereoscopic Video Displays

Friday May 6, 1994

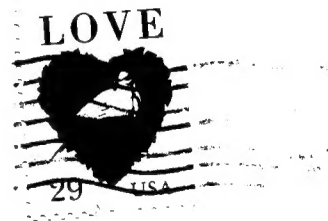
Doors Open at 7:15 P.M.

The Meeting will Begin at 7:45 P.M.

Don't Forget! Field Day is coming up around the corner. See June's Zero Beat for more

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

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